

SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

EDITORIAL OPINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS UPON CURRENT TOPICS—COMPILLED EVERY DAY FOR THE EVENING TELEGRAPH.

The New Cabinet.

From the N. Y. Times. General Grant is receiving a plentiful stock of advice as to the composition of his Cabinet from journalists and politicians who labored strenuously to prevent his election. He is too sensible a man to disregard good counsel, whether proceeding from enemies or friends. But the value of suggestions may be estimated, presumptively, by the character of the advice given. And as the Democrats have wretchedly mismanaged their own concerns, and both in the selection of nominees and the conduct of the campaign have evinced the most consummate folly, it is probable that General Grant will not consider them peculiarly qualified to act as his advisers. Success may take warning from failure, but it is scarcely likely to make failure a confidential friend.

The qualities displayed by General Grant as a soldier afford the best possible guarantee as well of the judgment as of the independence which may be looked for in the formation of his administration. Not the least of the causes of his military prestige was the sagacious estimate of character which enabled him to single out the best men under his command, and to assign them to the duties for which they were best fitted. No paltry jealousy hindered him from putting strong men on the road to distinction, no petty favoritism impelled him to the incompetent or distinguished ability. He thought only of the great object to be attained, and in his devotion to duty looked always for the most effective available assistance. It is reasonably certain that in the selection of a Cabinet the same discrimination will save him from the pitfalls that would have environed almost any other President. He is a good judge of character. His method of estimating men leaves little hope for oblativity, and none for notorious meanness. His contempt for the low arts of the professional politician, and his freedom from the entangling alliances which are too often the price of high office, are circumstances greatly in his favor. He will be at liberty to travel to the several departments men whose antecedents inspire confidence in their integrity, and whose capacity for administrative labor has been satisfactorily proved. His own position, moreover, will no doubt enable him to gather about him some of whom ordinarily Cabinet offices form no temptation. More than mere politicians will be willing to co-operate with him in fulfilling the hopes and expectations awakened by his election.

And yet it is absurd to suppose that General Grant, in his choice of Cabinet officers, will travel beyond the boundaries of the Republican party. Violent partisanship we do not look for at his hands. Nevertheless, he is a Republican President, and as such, despite Democratic opposition, and the Cabinet must possess the confidence of the party that supported him, not of the party by whom he was assailed. The pretensions of cliques he may, and doubtless will, value at their proper rate; but to the general and understood wishes of the Republican party, as a whole, he should, and we are quite sure he will, accord ungrudging respect. One of the prime conditions of his usefulness is the reestablishment of harmony between the Executive and Congress, and this will be impossible unless the nominations for responsible offices commend themselves to the majority by a known identification with the principles and purposes of the Republican organization.

If those of the Democrats who profess anxiety for the success and welfare of General Grant as President are really honest in their intentions, we recommend them to employ their influence in moderating the rancor of their own party, and in substituting fair play for the factious opposition which Republican measures have almost uniformly encountered. They cannot hope to construct a Seymour Cabinet with Grant as President. But they may help to abate the bitterness of partisanship, to purify the working of the Government, and to hasten the restoration of lasting peace by the adoption of a moderate and practical course. They have it in their power, especially in the South, to contribute to the return of national harmony and prosperity. The possibility, or even the promise, of these services, will not, however, entitle them to any share in the administration of the Government. The country looks for a Cabinet in whose aims it may repose entire confidence; and the standard by which General Grant's advisers will in part be judged, is their relation to the party whose principles and policy have just achieved so signal a triumph.

Grant's Characteristics.

From the N. Y. Commercial Advertiser. When General Grant, in a private letter to his father, written while he was yet achieving his reputation in the West, modestly stated that it was his highest ambition to be equal to anything that might be expected of him, he seems to have unconsciously epitomized the traits that have won for him the confidence of his countrymen and the respect of the world. In all the trying relations in which he has been placed, he has never once fallen short of achieving all that could have been reasonably expected of him. He seems to have always set himself to the performance of the nearest duty without a particle of the self-seeking that has proved the bane of so many of our generals and politicians. While others were planning future honors and aggrandizement as the consequence of certain acts, General Grant kept closely to the work on hand, and let the morrow take care of itself. He also possessed a rare intuition of character that always led him to select the right man for the right work. Of all his generals there is not one who did not prove himself worthy of his leader; none who proved unequal to the duty intrusted to him.

Judging the future by the past, there is every reason to anticipate that in the new position to which General Grant has been elected he will prove equal to all that is expected of him by his countrymen. Even the Democrats, while yet smarting under the sense of defeat, freely express their confidence in the integrity and ability of the President elect. That he will conduct his administration with due regard to the interests and privileges of all classes, and with a strict economy, is what is now expected of him by the American people, and that he will realize those anticipations there is every reason to hope. Since the days of Washington there never was a President who was less indebted to the politicians and more indebted to the people. He owes everything to the masses; nothing to faction. Even the Southerners concede his honesty and admire his magnanimity—as they have good reason to do—and anticipate that his policy will be liberal and generous.

That General Grant will hold the lines with a firm hand may be confidently anticipated. Under his administration the United States will be respected abroad. At home, order and protection of life and property in all parts of the country will be strictly enforced, thus establishing the foundations of a renewed prosperity. The South will be made to un-

derstand once for all that the Constitution enforces duties as well as confers privileges. In fine, he will render the United States more democratic than ever before by establishing equal rights and universal liberty of thought, action, and speech as the irrevocable principles of the Republic.

The Vote.

From British Pomeroy's Democrat. There is little doubt that the full returns from the different States, and counting in Virginia, Mississippi, and Texas, which were not allowed to vote, will show not only heavy gains to the Democracy, as we intimated on Saturday, but a popular majority for our ticket, and a grand array of two millions and a half of men, still in the field, and ready to struggle right on, with the same heroic spirit as in the past, for the restoration of free government and white supremacy over all this land.

Then, in addition, there is to be taken into the account the disfranchisement of white citizens in many of the States, which in Tennessee and Missouri is heavy, but we think not as great as has been stated by some of the papers in the other Southern States. This habit of making figures lie, which so conspicuously prevails in certain journals, indicates very bad political and personal morals, and does great harm to the party which is in any way made responsible for it.

The election returns were badly "doctored" in the late canvass by a certain mercenary, prostituted sheet, falsely claiming to be Democratic, whose statements were widely and recklessly and to seriously reflect upon the character of the party, and impair confidence in even fair and honest Democratic authority.

Upon the question of the extent of the disfranchisement in the South we have no definite information. It is bad enough in all conscience, when the truth is stated, and the case requires no exaggeration to show either Jacobin villainy or the strength of the white man's party in this country. In Tennessee we believe it is about ninety thousand. Why does any fool want to lie up to 114,807? The very fact that somebody is so particular as to bring the numbers down to tens and units, that minutest nobody has any knowledge, shows on the face of the statement that it is a fabrication. Missouri is put down at ninety-five thousand. Though it is enormous in that State, we have an impression that this is an exaggeration. Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Louisiana, North Carolina, South Carolina, and West Virginia are stated to have a disfranchisement of 221,350 white voters. We think this is overstated. In Arkansas every man before he is allowed to vote is obliged to swear that he believes in negro equality, which excludes nearly the whole white population, unless they swear falsely, and we think there is some approach to this in Alabama; and in West Virginia there is a shameful political ostracism; but we do not understand that there is a very large disfranchisement in the other four States named. We wish some friend in each of the Southern States would give us accurate information in this matter, that we may publish reliable statements.

But what shall we say of a statement purporting to show the opposition strength, which first claims that the Democrats would have got 137,966 had an election been held there, and then adds to that 57,863 disfranchised persons, making a grand total of 195,829? And this in the face of the fact that no question arises, and no one can be so stupid as to suppose that the Democrats would have given, if permitted to vote, 64,145 more Democratic votes than the whole vote which the same part of Virginia cast in 1860. He treats Mississippi and Texas in the same way, first counting the whole vote, which he claims, and then adding an arbitrary number of disfranchised, when all are disfranchised alike. Democrats so much as any class of citizens, are interested in exposing and denouncing such a blundering, reckless puppy, for their, more than anybody, are injured by such false and ridiculous statements being put forth apparently in their behalf.

Reconstruction in Sequence.

From the N. Y. World. Florida is in revolution. Less in population than our Seventeenth State, it is in mechanism and management a State, and now exhibits the cheerful spectacle of two world-beating Governors, and one Legislature declared illegal by the Executive elected, who has been "impeached" by the "law-making" power on such charges as "lying," "selling commissions," "robbing the treasury," and several other kindred felonies. Compliments pass down there, and the carpet-bagger chief retorts by declaring the "impeaching" body extinct because more than a quorum have constitutionally vacated their seats, by accepting contested appointments to other offices. At last accounts the President of the Senate had proclaimed the Governor deposed pending impeachment, and had sought to assume the powers of state himself, in which attempt he had been substantially told by the Governor de facto to seek a zone yet more tropical than even the land of flowers. So each declares himself ruler and simultaneously summons the negro militia to his side. To the north of them the colored troops, though they undoubtedly fought nobly, seem anxious to flock; while on the furious factious the disfranchised virtue and brain of the State look with the complacency of indifference whereas with the wife regarded the traditional war between her husband and the bear.

New, as to this rare, radiant, and rosy wrangle, of course nobody cares whether carpet-bagger Reed kill carpet-bagger Gleason, or carpet-bagger Gleason kill carpet-bagger Reed, or whether carpet-bagger do kill the other carpet-bagger, but it reflects in serious and comic colors, withal, the hideous monstrosity and screaming farce which this system of Congressional reconstruction works out when left to the crucial test of time, and to the simple charge of the secondaries whom disfranchisement and bayonets, as negative and positive exercises, have lifted to the chairs of power. Florida sets rolling a ball by which the whole of the inverted pyramids dancing on a apex in the South, and called governments, will be bowled over, and before long, by the simple operation of natural laws that bring capacity and honesty to the surface, affairs will flow in regular channels. The falling out of the rogues will be the completion of the proverb. The Kilkenny cat contest now in progress in the least will spread through all of the enslaved States. Slave wages and carpet-bagger in stride for president, and who have begun a standard which can but end when both are powerless for further mischief. Their mutual greed-bred mutual hates, have culminated in real struggle, and will finish such as effectually as the snake did his larders.

when, putting his tail in his mouth, he swallowed himself out of sight.

This is what the World foretold and foretold. All we asked for reconstruction was—let it alone. Behold the result! It works out its own confusion with fear and trembling. It cannot stand. It totters from intrinsic rottenness and internal disension. It falls not by violence, but, as the false knight in "Ivanhoe," "its own sins strike it dead." Various forms may do mark and make its ruin. In Florida it is disension. In Louisiana the swinish negroes have turned on those who cast before them the pearls of franchise, and read them. Warmouth and company work back for safety in the shadow of General Rousseau's coat-tail, and the conservatives keep scriptural coals of fire on the heads of those who sometimes played fantastic tricks of state. In Alabama and Georgia and Arkansas, and in North and South Carolina, conclusive conservative majorities, or great conservative gains, stamp out the illusions and repair the wastes wrought within the recent years by rioters and renegeans in the name of liberty and equality. Every such success demonstrates the failure of reconstruction. It marks a change of sentiment, and the object of the Congressional system was to make over sovereign States into radical rotten-boroughs forever.

This is reconstruction in sequence. What fraud formed, fraud is wrecking. What bayonet propped up, the ballot is burying in the dust, and there is a dramatic retribution in the process. The negro, in whose sole belief the reconstruction was instituted, and tutored, in one way or another subverts the plans of those who traded on his credulity to work their own success over the prosperity of his longest and truest friends.

After this we can see the answer to "Let us have peace." After this we can see what is the "success of the Congressional system of reconstruction" on which the Chicago platform congratulated the country, and of which the late election of a minority President has been proclaimed as a ratification. Henceforth, No gentlemen, your house was built upon sand. The rains are descending and the floods are come which beat upon that house. It will fall, and great will be the fall of it.

Two Civil Wars at Once—The Oyster and Other Spoils.

From the N. Y. World. Old Abe was of opinion that it was best to have one war at a time, and permitted the nation to endure at the hands of England the insult and outrage of the Alabama business and the destruction of our commerce and our temper and terrible loss of time in reading Seward's despatches, to say nothing of the vexation of Reverdy Johnson, and his apologies to that famous old invader, the British lion, for our bad behavior. Now we are more than half ready to convict Old Abe of a too timid spirit, of a too great fearfulness of war; for here we have actually doubled Old Abe's allowance without evident damage. We have two wars on at once, the Virginia fight, and the war in the style of ladies' dresses at the opera, and the appearance of notes from G. W. B. in the papers, we might almost fancy that there was as profound a peace in the land as we all hope there will be when Grant takes hold.

Yet there is a dreadful war on the Chesapeake waters between the Virginians and the Marylanders. From the character of the combats this war evidently is no trifle. We all know how the Virginians fight, as we heard of the Army of Northern Virginia, and Stonewall Jackson, and Governor Wise, and Magruder, and Lee, and all the other sons of the mother of States and of statesmen, who, though she has lately been looked upon as no better than she ought to be, is a stout old girl nevertheless. We know that the Virginians will fight—at least while they preserve that fine sensibility of character that makes the fear of being laughed at for running away more terrible than the fear of an enemy. We know that the Marylanders will fight. We know the history of the Baltimore streets. Moreover, we have heard of the Maryland line. Whether it is only a common chalk line, or whether it is a first cousin to the equator, or whether it is the line with which they catch the Spanish mackerel they have at Guy's, is a point of no importance whatever. We have heard that this line, like "Solon Shingle's" granddaddy, "fit into the Revolution," and we have no doubt it "fit" better than that of the good old Marylanders. It was composed of two regiments of infantry, all Irishmen. Thus there is no doubt that the Marylanders will fight and the Virginians will fight if there is an object worthy of their prowess in dispute, and the object in this case is the oyster! They will fight, of course. Who would not fight for his oysters? Now that nigger-breeding as a business is done with, now that the soil of Virginia is so exhausted for tobacco that the best districts hardly give a crop, and now that, as always, it takes labor to raise wheat, the oyster is Virginia's bottom dollar—her last source of wealth; so she will fight in this war with all the chivalry of her spirit—first, because the object is her beloved oyster; next, because it is the last resource of her sons in making money. Maryland, therefore, is not going to have an easy time on the Chesapeake.

The other war is in Florida, and is trivial to the oyster war. It is a war of the politicians about the plunder. We have no great respect for the Florida fighters themselves. They thrashed little Hay one, Old Abe's secretary, pretty badly; but as Hay was not of much account on the field of slaughter, they are entitled to no honor for the achievement. But this Florida war has a more serious aspect when we remember that all the combatants of both sides went from Massachusetts. Massachusetts will fight terribly when the spoils are in danger; so there may be some bloody noses yet. It is said that the Governor has found out that the Governor has got a better hold on the State purse than they have, and that he "lies" (that being radical for a difference of opinion); so they have impeached him. He in return has impeached all the members in his way—has declared their seats vacant under the Constitution because they held other offices. The war will give us a fine view of the way government is carried on in a reconstructed State, unless (which fortune forbid!) the parties, finding each other's power, make peace on a fair distribution of the spoils.

Democracy and Election Frauds.

From the N. Y. Tribune. The Sun sees fit to say of the efforts to detect and expose the enormous frauds by which our late election was vitiated, and the electoral vote of our State given to candidates rejected by a great majority of our legal voters, that "it is certain that the mass of the people, possessing as they do abundant intelligence, and approving of the detection of such frauds, and

will join in inflicting condign punishment upon their authors."

Comments by the Tribune.

Nearly thirty years ago, we did our best at Albany in aid of the first successful effort to pass an act for the protection of the rights of legal voters through their registration. The abuse of illegal voting was flagrant, though not then nearly as enormous as now (our city being but a village in comparison with its present magnitude); yet, according to our best recollection, not one Democrat, whether in or out of the Legislature, gave the effort any support or countenance whatever. And, though the act thus passed unquestionably prevented much illegal voting while it existed, it was repealed by a strict party vote in the first succeeding Democratic Legislature. From that day to this, we have steadily and earnestly labored to have the laws of this and of every State so amended as to secure to every legal voter his right of suffrage—a right utterly subverted and destroyed wherever persons who are not legal voters are enabled to vote with impunity, and where persons who may or may not be voters are enabled to vote many times at one election. And we cannot call to mind a single instance where a member of the Democratic party, in sympathy and good standing with the regular organization of that party, has practically evinced any desire that efficient measures should be taken to render illegal voting impossible.

During these thirty years laws have been enacted in several States, intended and calculated to prevent illegal voting—no one of them, so far as we can recollect, by a Democratic Legislature. And, in every instance of the passage of such a law, where the Democratic party has succeeded to power, it has made haste to repeal the act.

The Legislature of New Jersey chosen in 1865, was Republican in both branches, and it enacted a registry law. The Legislature chosen last fall was Democratic in both branches, and it made haste to repeal that law, by passing its bill over Governor Ward's veto.

The last Legislature of Pennsylvania, being Republican, passed a Registry act. The Supreme Court of that State proceeded to nullify it as unconstitutional. The ruling spirit of that Court is George Sharwood, who was last year re-elected by the very friends which this Registry act was intended and calculated to preclude!

The Democrats of Connecticut in 1867 elected and last spring re-elected James English Governor—we believe by fraudulent votes. As these frauds are necessarily confined mainly to the densely peopled communities—the cities and most populous villages—it is morally impossible to elect by them a Legislature so that of Connecticut, like that just chosen in our State, was Republican. That Legislature proceeded to frame and pass a carefully considered act to prevent illegal voting. Governor English promptly vetoed it, urging objections to certain important clauses. The Legislature re-passed it over his veto, a clear majority of either House sufficing for the purpose. The act, thus become a law, having been sent for official record to the Secretary of State's office for official record, it was soon discovered that the most vital clauses—those specially objected to by Governor English—had somehow been erased from it! The Legislature restored them, again passed it, and sent it to the Secretary's office; when lo! it appeared that one of the vital clauses aforesaid had again been somehow erased—and the act stands thus emasculated to this day. Yet, mutilated as it has been by some villain's hand, we believe what is left of it saved the State to her legal voters and to Grant and Colfax.

Mind that this is no question between two different modes of obtaining an end mutually desired. We do not complain that the Democrats choose another mode than that proposed by us for achieving the desired end—we assert that they propose and support no serious impediment whatever to illegal voting in cities. In a rural township, where every one knows every one, such a claim of the right of suffrage challenges the scrutiny of scores who know how he will vote, some of whom favor the adverse ticket; but, in a great city like this, thousands know nothing of their next-door neighbor, and thirty to fifty thousand persons annually present themselves at the polls who are utterly unknown to any present, but those whose partisan bias will be gratified, while their personal ends will be served, by these persons voting early and often—the more the better.

If there be, indeed, honest Democrats who would gladly see illegal voting prevented, how happens it that none of them ever blunder into a Legislature? If there be such in this city, whether adhering to Tammany or Mozart, will the Sun will be good enough to acquaint us at least with their names? If John T. Hoffman, or William M. Tweed, or Peter B. Sweeney, or George G. Barnard, or John H. McCunn, or even A. Oakley Hall among them? If not, who are they? The great dramatist makes "Lady Macbeth" upbraid her hesitating husband as one who "Wouldst not play false, And yet wouldst wrongfully win."

Such Democrats we presume there are—sleek, respectable, pious even, if you will—but wherein are they practically better than the villain who has just swindled the people of our State out of their Electoral vote for Grant and the State officers of their choice? Let us understand.

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